

Domestic Relations Committee
Judicial Conference of Indiana

Minutes
August 20, 2004

The Domestic Relations Committee met at JTAC, One North Capitol Avenue, 2nd Floor, and the Indiana Judicial Center in Indianapolis, Indiana on Friday, August 20, 2004 from 10:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

1. Members present. David A. Ault, David C. Chapleau, Thomas J. Felts, Diana LaViolette, Mary Margaret Lloyd, Roderick D. McGillivray, Keith A. Meier, Robyn L. Moberly, and Michael P. Scopelitis, Chair.
2. Staff present. Jeffrey Bercovitz provided the committee with staff assistance.
3. Guests present. Lindsey Borschel and Leslie Rogers, Division of State Court Administration were also present.
4. Minutes approved. The minutes from July 16, 2004 were approved.
5. Intranet. Lindsey Borschel gave “hands on” training for an intranet product from the Judicial Technology and Automation Committee entitled, “Angel.” The committee agreed to begin use of the product to permit committee members to exchange drafts of benchbook sections.
6. Court ADR program. Committee members discussed the present ADR legislation and (1) agreed it should be permissive to permit circuit and superior courts to combine ADR funds; (2) agreed it should be permissive to permit counties to place co-pay monies into the ADR fund; and (3) agreed the legislation should be amended to permit the St. Joseph Probate Court to participate. Judge Felts agreed to prepare language with Leslie Rogers, Division of State Court Administration.
7. Child Support. The committee members reviewed the agenda of the Child Custody and Support Advisory Committee.
8. Domestic Relations Benchbook. Committee members reviewed the Introduction to Provisional Orders, Support, and Modification section.
9. Domestic Relations conference. The members of the committee discussed ideas for the Domestic Relations conference in November 2005:
 - a. Interviewing a child; NCJFCJ had a good session in Seattle this year on this topic
 - b. Psychological practice – Assessment tools for children
 - c. In making custody decisions, what factors are important for children at various ages for a judge to consider. Have a child psychologist discuss this topic.
 - d. Parental alienation syndrome
 - e. Moveaways of juveniles and custody hearings in general
 - f. Charlie Asher, Attorney and his website: Up to Parents
 - g. How to administer pro se litigants

h. How to encourage/raise the profile of use of mediation through the \$20.00 ADR fund – what is working in various plans, how to set up a program.

10. Next meeting.

a. Committee members agreed to finish the provisional orders section in October. They agreed to begin the November meeting with Marriage, Legal Separation and Filing. They also agreed to have Judge Ault complete the portion on Divorce Seminars for Children.

b. Committee members agreed to meet again on the following dates: October 15, November 19, 2004 and January 21, February 18, March 18, April 15, and May 20, 2005 from 10:30 to 4:00 p.m. at the Indiana Judicial Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Bercovitz, Director
Juvenile and Family Law